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more or less sketchy way the sources of information most easily accessible. Those persons therefore who have worked over this material at all fully will find little that is new in this monograph. The laws of the state, the ordinances of the city, the proceedings of the council since 1872, the local histories of varying value, and the newspapers to a limited extent, have been drawn upon by the author. Little attempt has been made, if one may judge from the traces of the effort in the monograph itself, to work over in detail the enormous mass of material contained in the newspapers and in the ephemeral pamphlet literature of the last fifty years, so that the field of original research is still left almost untouched for future monographic effort.

On the other hand, the work of giving a fairly satisfactory outline history of the municipal government has been well done, and the description of the existing system of administration is, if not altogether adequate, the best account thus far furnished within anything like the same number of pages. The book is on the whole a substantial contribution to the subject which it discusses. It will be of considerable use even to the special student who has worked over the field, and in the present state of the literature on the subject will be well-nigh indispensable to the students of our municipal institutions who wish to know something of Chicago and its development, and yet have not access to the original sources. The book is distinctly superior to the common run of monographs submitted for the doctor's degree. An epigrammatic style interferes with the pleasure of reading the work, and there are evidences that the author has yielded to the temptations common to such a style, and said things often in such an epigrammatic way that the sense is concealed for all but himself. Many misprints disfigure the pages, which is all the more to be regretted as the general typographical appearance of the book is distinctly pleasing.

Histoire de la Seigneurie de Lauzon. Par J. EDMOND ROY, Membre de la Société Royale du Canada, Maire de la ville de Lévis. (Lévis, en vente chez l'auteur, 9 rue Wolfe. 1897, 1898. Two vols., pp. viii, v, lxiii, 495, lxxxvi; 416, lxii, v.)

It is almost startling to find the mayor of a town in America who is engaged in active political life, devoting the spare time of ten years to historical research. M. Roy is mayor of the considerable town of Lévis opposite Quebec. The surrounding tract of country composes the seigneurie of Lauzon. The huge buildings and glittering spires of Lévis look imposing from the terrace at Quebec, and the place itself has had an eventful history. It was from its heights that Wolfe bombarded Quebec in 1759. So long ago as 1636, the seigneurie was originally established, and for concessions made in 1653 masses are still said annually in the parish of St. Nicolas for Mme. de Charmy, wife of a former seigneur. In this and adjoining seigneuries land has been held by the same families in unbroken succession for more than two hundred years. Th. Bentzon,

writing recently in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, pointed out that the ownership of land has witnessed relatively fewer changes in Quebec than in France, which is not what one expects in the New World.

French feudalism, planted in Canada amid conditions so different from those native to it, is an interesting study. M. Roy, with minute detail, describes in these two volumes the history of a feudal domain for rather more than one hundred years. His work for the present ends with the British conquest of Canada in 1759; but feudalism did not perish in Canada at that time. The Quebec Act of 1774, to the disgust of the English colonies, provided for the continuance of the old French system. The *habitant*, who had then been free for the fifteen years since the conquest, was brought once more under the sway of his lord. This sway never became a real tyranny, but the lord's rights were irritating and restrictive, and the whole system, after enduring under British rule for three quarters of a century, was in the end swept away about fifty years ago.

The daily life of the people, living amid conditions so foreign to America, is of great interest; and it is this which should attract to M. Roy's volumes the attention of the larger world. He is not a picturesque writer, and he has been embarrassed by a wealth of material. He can tell us the names of all the dwellers within the seigneurie at almost any date. Not a church-warden, not a pew-holder, hardly a volume in the priest's library, escapes his notice. Obviously such work is mainly of local import, yet from it much of wider import can be gleaned. We see the seigneur in Canada as in France claiming the customary respect from the church. He has the seat of honor with his armorial bearings over it. His name and that of his wife are mentioned in the public prayers. Between him and his vassals there is a social gulf. They come to him for fatherly advice, and he corrects their faults. He lives in state, rude indeed, but not wanting in dignity. To his bakery, his mill, his tannery the people are obliged to come for the various services required. Nor was the life of the peasant one of mere dull routine. The seigneurie of Lauzon lay on the route from Quebec to the New England settlements, and some aspects of the ferocious border warfare between the French and the English can be found in these volumes.

These intermittent struggles reached their climax in the great siege of Quebec in 1759, *l'année terrible* as M. Roy calls it. We get here a side of the narrative hardly touched upon in Parkman's *Montcalm and Wolfe*, the terror of the French peasantry, the solemn litanies in the churches frequented by crowds, in the end the flight of almost the entire population to the woods. M. Roy tells the tale not dramatically but with minute care. It is the life of his own people that he is describing. Never does he show any bitterness toward the English conqueror, though he is always true, in tone, to France. This of itself is an indication that the war of races is almost dead in Canada. The most patriotic of French Canadians glory in the British institutions which they enjoy. At the present day in the seigneurie of Lauzon dwell some thirty thousand

people, French and Catholic almost to a man. If Great Britain and France were at war, they would find themselves in a terrible dilemma ; yet their leaders are even passionately devoted to Great Britain, which has been almost too generous in leaving them their former system unimpaired.

The pagination of M. Roy's volumes is remarkable. He makes some trifling errors such as "Sir Logan" for Sir William Logan (I. xlvii), and his sense of proportion is sometimes defective ; few have heard of the "celebrated" novelist Frances Brooke (I. 25). The book is however a sound and scholarly piece of historical work, far superior to the average local history published in English. The care with which records are preserved in French Canada is probably unequalled elsewhere in the world. This fosters a taste for genealogy and there is scarcely a family that cannot trace its ancestry back for many generations. One result is a civic patriotism that has produced an admirable series of local histories.

GEORGE M. WRONG.

Mexico and the United States ; a Study of Subjects affecting their Political, Commercial and Social Relations, made with a view to their Promotion. By MATIAS ROMERO. Vol. I. (New York : G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1898. Pp. xxxiv, 759.)

D. MATIAS ROMERO was appointed Secretary to the Mexican Legation at Washington in 1859, and for nearly twenty-five of the years between that date and his death in December last, he resided in the United States as the diplomatic representative of Mexico. Throughout this period he devoted himself with earnest intelligence and with unremitting diligence to the task of developing by every legitimate means more intimate relations between the neighboring republics. Possessed of solid qualities rather than brilliant talents, his work attracted comparatively little attention even from those whom it affected most directly, but his long term of almost uniformly pleasant and successful service gave him a position of distinct influence in official circles at Washington and with the representatives of commercial interests in the large cities. He was frequently called upon by influential organizations, by learned societies and by magazine editors to explain the problems which complicate relations with our South American neighbors and to throw light upon the puzzling questions whose solution demands an understanding of the social and political characteristics of the Mexican people. His responses to these various demands have contained a very large amount of information upon many sides of Mexican life and history. Written by one of the best informed Mexicans of his generation for the people of the United States, whose wants and ideas he had come to understand very thoroughly, these papers have for some time been regarded by those best acquainted with Mexico as among the most reliable of the sources of information available to English readers.

Almost the last important service rendered by Señor Romero to the two republics which he served so faithfully was the revision of the more important of these occasional essays and addresses for publication in per-